

Peer Connections Newsletter

Forward by your Coordinator

This month we are celebrating families. As we enter into summer, it's the time for family picnics and family vacations. And while those events can conjure up images of either fun memories or embarrassing ones, they are precious moments spent with loved ones that will be remembered forever. Your goal this month should be to create more of those memories. Put down the cell phones, get off the computers, turn off the televisions, gather up your family and friends go outside, play a game, make a meal, take a day trip and create some more priceless memories!

Calendar of Events

Peer Connections

- June 7 - Peer Connections Summer Social (BRING A PARENT!)
- June 14 - Bishop Peter Rosazza Social Justice Conference
- *June 15 - Father's Day*
- June 20-22 – Teen Weekend Retreat at Holy Family Retreat Center

- *July 4 - Independence Day*
- July 12 – New Britain Rock Cats Game (FAMILY OUTING)
- July 27 - Final Meeting for Soul Fest

- August 7-10 - Soul Fest 2014

- (NEW) September 8 - Parent Meeting
- September 21 – Catholic Youth Spectacular (Grades 7-12)

- November - Service Project: End Hunger New England with FVAMC

PRINT THE NEW SUMMER CALENDAR!

ATTENTION:

All events now have a RSVP deadline box. The deadline information will be in **RED**. Please pay close attention to the due dates to ensure that you are guaranteed a spot or to get the Peer Connections discount for tickets and events.

Earth Day Follow-Up



Take care of those sunflower seeds.

Let them be a reminder that you have been chosen to protect God's creation.

Look for ways to reduce your carbon footprint, care for animals and be kind to others.

Peer Connections Summer Social

June 7, 2014

The festivities will begin promptly after 4:30 Mass.

- ⊗ Opportunity to attend Mass as a family.
- ⊗ Dinner with ALL of the Peer Connections Families (RSVP with a food item.)
- ⊗ Lots of end of the year surprises.
- ⊗ Final event - Kid vs. Parent Peer Connection Jeopardy Game.

There will be lots of food and fun!



REMEMBER TO BRING A PARENT WITH YOU!

DEADLINE: RSVP to the Evite invitation by June 1st to reserve your spot and bring a food item to share.

RETREATS!

Teen Weekend Retreat

June 20-22, 2014



HOLY FAMILY
PASSIONIST
RETREAT CENTER

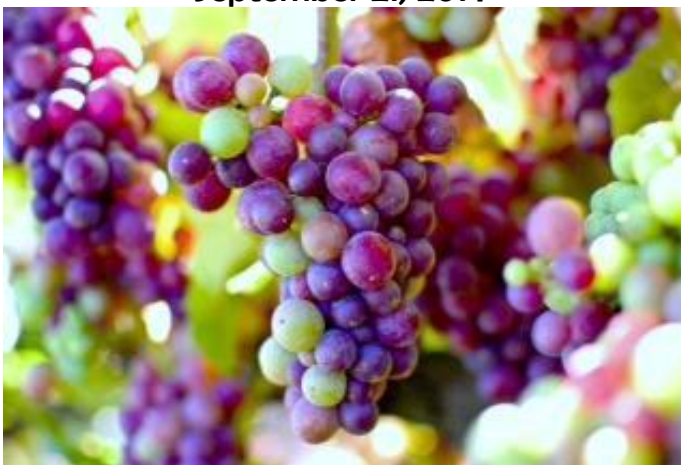
To all high school students (including teens that will be freshmen in the fall & graduating seniors) St. Mary's parish would like to sponsor you to attend the Teen Weekend Retreat at Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center in West Hartford, Connecticut. During the weekend you can hang out with other Christian teens, play silly games, and listen to wise presenters (including our very own Andrew McCaffrey), spend time in the sunshine on the beautiful grounds, pray as a group or individually & have lots of fun. There is a lot of flexibility.

The cost for the weekend is \$175 however, as your sponsor; St. Mary's will pay half of the cost. *Scholarships may be available for the full cost, contact st.marys.peerconnections@gmail.com*

DEADLINE: Complete and return the attached registration forms by June 7th to Amanda.

Catholic Youth Spectacular 2014

September 21, 2014



"Working in the Vineyard:
Called. Chosen. Sent"

More details to come

Soul Fest 2014

August 7-10, 2014



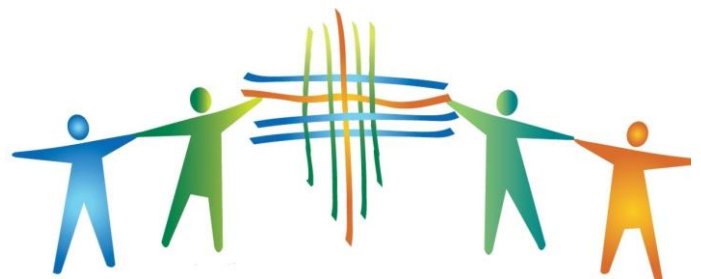
"New England's Premier Christian music and worship festival and family retreat. Held annually at the beautiful Gunstock Mountain Resort in Gilford, N. H. August 7-10, 2014 featuring world renowned artists & speakers on 5 separate stages."

We will be camping for the 4 day, 3 nights. Lunch and dinner, campsites, lift tickets and a multi-day pass to the concerts and speakers are included. All you need to bring is clothes, sleeping bag, and an open mind. Don't miss this opportunity to take a family retreat or come with friends. There are lots of activities for every age group.

For more information about Soul Fest go to www.thesoulfest.com or their Facebook page www.facebook.com/soulfest.

Sign up today to take advantage of the Peer Connections discounted rate.

DEADLINE: All reservations must be made by June 14th. If you sign up after that date, you will NOT get the Peer Connections discount rate!



EVENTS AND EXTRAS!

New Britain Rock Cats Game

July 12, 2013 @ 6:30 pm



Bring the family and join us for a night of baseball with the New Britain Rock Cats.

This event is open to ALL St. Mary's families and friends, so invite ALL of your family and friends!

***If you purchase your tickets up at the Summer Social you will get the Peer Connections discount on the tickets and \$5 worth of Rocky Bucks for free to be used at the concession area at the stadium. ***

DEADLINE: Tickets must be paid for by July 1, 2014. Any additional tickets that need to be purchased will NOT get the Peer Connections discount rate.



Cherish your human connections - your relationships with friends and family. - Barbara Bush

Create a special time during your week to spend with your family.

Bishop Peter Rosazza Social Justice Conference

Saturday, June 14, 2014 (8 am—4 pm)
St. Paul Catholic HS in Bristol, CT



Rooted in Faith — Building a Better World
A CELEBRATION of Learning Community Reflection Action

The conference is about gathering and empowering leaders and volunteers to make Catholic social teaching a reality in our communities. Keynote Speaker: Brother Michael McGrath, Eighteen Workshops (*Offered in English & Spanish*), Prayer, Music, Exhibitors. Sponsored by: Office for Catholic Social Justice Ministry, Of the Archdiocese of Hartford. For more information - www.catholicocialjustice.org



COMMITTEE NEWS

Starting this summer, Peer Connections will be developing new and unique committees or groups. A chairperson and committee members are needed for each group except the Contemporary Choir (see below). To get involved use the contact information for the group you are interested in. Remember there are many different paths to take on your faith journey, so find the one that is right for you!

Contemporary Choir

New



Choir Members
Welcome!

*** From the coordinators of a new music group for all ages. Anyone interested should contact Cathy or Monica! ***

Contemporary Choir: If you like to sing or play an instrument, we would love to have you join St. Mary's Contemporary Choir. We plan to rehearse on a flexible schedule this spring and summer with a goal of participating in the liturgy next Fall. Come help us make a joyful noise unto the Lord! Please contact Cathy Salchert csalchert@comcast.net or Monica Diaz monicadiazpr@hotmail.com for more information.

Children's Liturgy

We are currently looking for a chairperson and committee members to organize four (4) Children's Liturgy masses during the year. This committee will work closely with the Coordinator of Youth Ministry and the Liturgy Committee. The goal of this committee would be to encourage children to participate in the mass through various roles and create liturgical appropriate themes for that mass. Anyone of any age that is interested should contact st.marys.peerconnections@gmail.com



CALLED!

(Confirmed Adults Living & Learning Every Day)

Confirmation is not the end of your faith journey, but the beginning. It is your turn to spread the Good News!

Starting this summer, we will be forming a new group for Confirmed teens and adults. Over time goals will be established for this group to include evangelization, service projects and mission trips. However, the first goal of this group will be to create, organize and carry out four (4) educational and fun events for the children in the parish per year. This new group will work closely with the Coordinator of Youth Ministry. High School and College students that are interested should contact st.marys.peerconnections@gmail.com



Service Team



Chairperson and committee members are currently needed for the new service project committee. This group will be made up of teens and adults to coordinate service projects locally and away. This committee will work closely with the Coordinator of Youth Ministry as well as other parish ministries and faith based organizations. To sign up, contact st.marys.peerconnections@gmail.com.



Amanda McCaffrey, Coordinator of Youth Ministry

Online @ stmary-unionville.org or www.facebook.com/stmaryspeerconnections

St. Mary Star of the Sea Church or the Teen Center on School Street in Unionville